IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of dealing a card game, comprising the steps of:

(a) taking bets from each of one or more players before any cards are dealt;

(b) allowing each of the players to pay an optional discard fee, which is a percentage of the amount bet, before any cards are dealt;

[[(a)]] (c) dealing two cards to each of one or more players and to a dealer, from [[a]] one or more decks of cards having a plurality of ranks, each rank having a point value;

[[(b)]] (d) allowing each player to discard one of the cards that the player has been dealt, if the player pays a has paid the optional discard fee, provided that the player does not have a card of a specified rank;

[[(c)]] (e) dealing a replacement card to each player who has discarded a card;

[[(d)]] (f) dealing an additional card to each player who indicates that he or she wants an additional card;

[[(e)]] (g) dealing an additional card to the dealer, provided that the total point value for the cards previously dealt to the

-2-

STEPHEN C. SWIFT
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUITE 600
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 418-0000

dealer is below a minimum sum;

[[(f)]] (h) repeating steps [[(d)]] (f) and [[(e)]] (g) until no player wants additional cards and the total point value of the cards dealt to the dealer equals or exceeds the minimum sum; and

[[(g)]] (i) designating as a winner the player (or the dealer) having cards with the greatest total point value that does not exceed a maximum sum.

2. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 1, wherein payments are made to the players who are winners.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim [[3]] (2), wherein the cards of the specified rank may be counted as having either the highest or the lowest point value.

5. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 4, wherein there are an equal number of cards of each rank in each of the one or more decks.

6. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 5, wherein there are four cards of each rank in the deck.

7. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 6, wherein there are four suits of cards, with one card of each suit in each rank.

8. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the ranks of the cards are Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, and King, <u>Ace being the specified rank,</u> with the Aces having a point value of either one or eleven, the Jacks, Queens and Kings each having a point value of ten, and the other cards having a point value equal to the number of their rank.

9. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 8, wherein the maximum sum is twenty-one.

10. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 9, wherein the minimum sum is seventeen.

11. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 10, wherein an Ace has a point value of eleven, unless it will cause the total point value of the cards in the player's (or the dealer's) hand to exceed twenty-one, in which case the Ace has a point value of one.

12. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 11, in which a player may discard one of the two cards that he or she is initially dealt only if the total point value of the two cards in sixteen or less.

13. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 12, wherein when the total point value of the cards in a player's hand is greater than twenty-one, the player is out of the game.

14. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein the ~~fee paid by the player to discard one card is a fixed~~ percentage of the amount bet <u>is a fixed percentage of the amount bet</u> by the player <u>choosing to pay the optional discard fee</u>.

15. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 14, wherein the fixed percentage is twenty percent.

16. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein the <u>optional discard</u> fees ~~paid by the players to discard~~ are refunded if the total point value of the cards in the dealer's hand is exactly twenty-one.

17. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein, if the total point value of the cards in the dealer's hand is exactly twenty-one, any player <u>who has paid the optional discard fee and has</u> ~~having~~ an Ace or a [[10]] <u>a card with a point value of ten</u> in his or her hand may draw or be dealt an additional card from the deck, and if the total point value of the cards in the player's hand is then exactly twenty-one, he or she will be paid as a winner.

18. (cancelled)

19. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein one of the two cards dealt initially to the dealer is placed face down.

STEPHEN C. SWIFT
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUITE 600
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 418-0000

-6-

20. (previously amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 1, wherein the cards are represented on a display screen of an electronic device.